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	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
	INFORMATION REPORT
	SUBJECT Observations and Conversations
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	DATE DISTR. 9 APR
	DATE (OF INFO.) Dec 53 - Jan 54  VALUE DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTIONS THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18. SECTIONS 183 AND TOR. OF THE U.S. CODE. As AMERICAD. ITS TRANSMISSION OR MEYE. LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORISED FARMOR 18
	THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION REPORT NO.
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	l. We felt that our interpreters gave faithful interpretations during our many conversations with the Soviets. One of our group knew a little Russian and could follow the translations enough to check them.  Phonetic spelling, last name not recalled.  gives last name
1	was the younger of our two interpreters and the more broadminded. He, upon occasion, reminded the Soviet people we were talking to that we also had a point or two. The following are some of the topics we touched upon in our conversations.
1	2. Education: The teachers at the Palace of Pioneers in Tbilisi asked us:  Is it compulsory? How many years are required?  Do students have an opportunity for summer vacations?
1 ·	3. Scholarships: Students at the University of Kharkov asked us about scholarships At the Baku Oil College, we were asked if workers' children could go to college
	4. Books: We met a post-graduate student doing work in Western European languages at Stalin University in Tbilisi who likes Shakespeare, Galsworthy, Twain, Longfellow; he did not like Shaw. Others we talked to there liked O'Henry, Faulkner and Howard Fast. We had our best conversation on literature with the youth-paper editors who boasted that there is no illiteracy in the USSR. They particularly liked Fast (The Spartans, Thirty Pieces of Silver, Freedom Road) and Dreiser. The students at the Middle School in Kiev liked Jack London, Kipling, Verne.
<b>&lt;</b> 1	5. Press: We were asked many questions
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6.	Coeducation: We asked the students at the Kiev Middle School if all schools are coeducational in the USSR. Their answers revealed some controversy on this. Some felt all schools should be coeducational; some, not. There apparently have been public debates on this matter. The disagreement seems to reach into the top level of the government.	
7•	Religion: The University of Kharkov students applauded and cheered wildly when one of our group said he did not believe in God.	
8.	War: We heard the Soviet peace slogan everywher: we went. The editor of the Baku Worker, who is a strong Communist Party member, went so far as to say, however, that war is good profiting on the blood of Soviets	25X1 25X1
9•	Unemployment: We had a huge debate about unemployment	25X1
10.	Automobiles: We were asked by many Soviets what kind of car we had. We were asked how many people have cars	25X1
11.		
12.	Germans: The Soviets always speak of the Fascist occupation. Our girl	25X1 25X1
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18.	Stalin and Malenkov: Stalin is still Number One in the eyes of the people.  Malenkov is not being made into the hero Stalin was. He is merely the head of the government. His picture rarely holds the center position and we saw no statues of Malenkov. He is usually pictured with the rest of the Committee. Even in the north, Malenkov's picture and references to him are not seen very often. I do not think this is a matter of not having had enough time to get Malenkov's picture up; I just do not think that the Soviets will ever include him with Lenin and Stalin.	
19.	Khrushchev: He is the real "hometown hero" of the Ukraine. His picture is seen there almost as often as Malenkov's.	
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O. Beria	: We never saw s	nicture of Be	rie anvwhere-eve	n in his home to	wn of	
Tbili:	si: although we d	id occasional	y see places whe	re the picture h	ar	
аррыг	ently hung. In t	he Park of Cul	ture and Rest at	Toilisi, I visi	ted mage	
the fi	unicular railroad een designed by F	eria's sister.	While at the s	tation. I asked	if this	
was t	rue and was told	that it was de	finitely not tru	e. I noticed the	at both	
Stalin	n's and another's	picture, prob	ably Beria's, ha	d been removed i	rom the	
build:	ing facade. Duri s in Tbilisi, I p	ng a series of	toasts with the	felt the Soviet	s under-	
stood	my reference but	they had to	oin me since I h	ad joined them i	ln their	
toast	s. It seemed to	me that the pu	rge of Beria has	extended to the	Secret	
Police	e; they are very	TOW IN DUDITIC	opinion now.		:	
21.						25X
2. We say	w <u>very</u> few crippl	ed or malnouri	shed people in t	he USSR. In the	war ·	
	s of Kiev and Ode	ssa, however,	there were many	with wooden legs	3,	
crute	hes and canes.					
3. Probal	bly the worst thi	ng in the Sovi	et Union is it.	toilets. Even i	in the	
good 1	hotels and first- w on the collecti	class restaure	ints, they were f	ilthy. All toil	ets	
holes	in the ground.	These "facilit	ies" were used h	y everyone.	·	
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